

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00225 121210Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /043 W

-----127837 121217Z /15

P 121115Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0716

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NP
SUBJECT: B.P. KOIRALA'S HEALTH

REF: STATE 005429

1. EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN B.P. KOIRALA'S CASE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE, BUT DEFINITIVE WORD ABOUT HIS HEALTH IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. BOTH HMG AND DOCTORS HANDLING HIS CASE CONSIDER THIS A DOMESTIC MATTER AND ARE CLOSE-MOUTHED WHILE HIS SUPPORTERS ARE BUSY SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT HIS POOR HEALTH.

2. MEMBERS OF B.P. JOIRALA'S FAMILY WHO SAW HIM JANUARY 6 ARE OUR SOURCE FOR REPORT ABOUT HIS FAINTING SPELLS. THESE ARE GENERALLY ACCEPTED LOCALLY AS TRUE EVEN IN ABSENCE OF PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONFIRMATION.

3. AS REPORTED KATHMANDU 0132 EMBASSY HAS CONVEYED TO PALACE SUBSTANCE OF DR. BRACHFELD'S PROFESSIONAL OPINION ABOUT B.P.'S HEALTH. PALACE IS FOLLOWING MATTER CLOSELY AND NEPALESE MEDICAL TEAM WHICH INCLUDES DR. S.K. PAHARI, KING'S PHYSICIAN, IS WATCHING KORALA CAREFULLY. EMBASSY
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HAS CHECKED WITH WESTERN PHYSICIAN RESIDENT HERE WHO REPORTS GENERAL CONSENSUS IN MEDICAL FRATERNITY IS THAT NEPALESE DOCTORS HAVE ADEQUATE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH B.P.'S CASE AND DETERMINE IF HE NEEDS DIFFERENT TREATMENT AND OUT-OF-COUNTRY MEDICAL CARE. FEELING IN THESE CIRCLES IS THAT FAINTING SPELLS RELATED MORE TO

RECENT RESPIRATORY CONDITION THAN HIS CAROTID
ARTERY PROBLEM

4. HMG IS WELL AWARE OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN
B.P.'S HEALTH AND STATUS. IT REMAINS CONVINCED
THAT IT CAN HANDLE SITUATION FROM MEDICAL POINT OF
VIEW. ESSENTIALLY IT SEES B.P.'S HEALTH AS MATTER
FOR NEPALESE TO HANDLE WHILE JUDICIAL CASE
PROCEEDS (KATHMANDU 191).
HECK

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